



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 3, 2021

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** William A. Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports *WAP*

**SUBJECT:** Update on Third Grade M-STEP English Language Arts Assessment and  
Read By Grade 3 - MEMO #COVID-19-196

Michigan's M-STEP testing window for third graders is almost complete. As of today, more than 72,000 third grade ELA test results have been posted on the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability secure website. This represents almost all the third-grade tests that are anticipated for the year.

As required by the state's Read By Grade 3 law, CEPI has sent 3,324 letters to the parents and legal guardians of third grade students identified for possible grade retention. Due to the pandemic, the M-STEP testing windows were extended by the Michigan Department of Education to provide flexibility for school districts to assess as many students as possible. With the extended window and the separate scoring of the small number of paper and pencil tests requested by local school districts still outstanding, there is a possibility that a few more retention letters will be sent to parents and legal guardians.

MDE encourages school district staff to review their M-STEP ELA reports in the secure site to be aware of, and to plan for, letters being sent to families in their district.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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